



Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services
Office of Newcomer Services
Virginia State Refugee Coordinator
(ONS/SRC)

ONS/SRC GUIDANCE LETTER

NUMBER 12-01
Date: June 5, 2012

☐ ACTION ITEM ☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Subject: Changes in SNAP Monthly Benefit Issuance Schedule

To: ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

From: Kathy A. Cooper 
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Virginia State Refugee Coordinator

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Acronyms used in this are:

ADAPT	Application Benefit Delivery Automation Project
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Virginia Department of Social Services advised local departments of social services last week that SNAP will be changing its current benefit issuance schedule. Currently benefits are issued to all recipients on the 1st of the month. A change is being made that will stagger the issuance dates.

The change was legislated by the Virginia General Assembly. The purpose is “so that SNAP clients will have better access to health and nutritious food choices by allowing the retail community to adequately restock their shelves.” (This quote is from the VDSS Broadcast announcing this change.)

There will be four SNAP benefit issuance dates each month: the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 9th. Each client’s issuance date will be determined by the last digit of the household’s ADAPT case number. Current recipients will receive a notice with their issuance date in late June. To provide the least amount of impact on current recipients, this issuance schedule change will take place over two months. The conversion period will be September 2012 through October 2012, with full implementation to be effective be effective October 1.

It is estimated that 40 percent of the caseload will continue to receive benefits on the first of the month. Sixty percent will experience a delay during the transition period. The length of the delay will vary. After the two month transition period, there will be no delays as each client will have a set SNAP benefits issuance date.

The local departments of social services will be informing clients and community organizations about these changes over the next three months and may be contacting your agency to explain this in more detail.